



Aiding the Embassy

The Corps is busy providing force protection and facilities upgrades with the U.S. Embassy in Ankara and its consulate in Adana, Turkey. While down the road, the Corps is busy helping the Air Force at Incirlik Air Base.

Story and Photos
Brian H. Temple

Time, money and quality are perhaps the top three aspects that can cause contention in a relationship with any customer. However, when an agency leverages the right talents, along with the right resources to execute a project, they whittle down the chances of being stuck in a sticky situation.

In the Republic of Turkey's capital city, Ankara, as well as in Adana (an hour's flight from the capital and kilometers up the road from Incirlik Air Force Base), the U.S. Department of State depends on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Embassy and consulate staffs have engaged Europe District's TUSEG Resident Office over the past several years for completing approximately \$2 million in both force protection

and quality of life project construction.

From bollards and anti-climb fences to office renovations and seismic reinforcements, the Corps has been the primary tool in the diplomatic mission's tool box to get work done.

George Hlosek, attaché at the embassy, said he has a small facility management team, and working with Europe District and implementing Job Order Contracts has helped them greatly.

"Speed is ... important to us. We've had projects that needed to

be done immediately and we needed to cut down on the period required for solicitation and bidding and study of proposals.

"Our embassy is not designed, nor do we have the staff to do these construction projects. Our contracting section and facilities section have their own missions.

Some projects are hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we could not handle those jobs."

Hlosek obtains his construction funding from the Overseas Building Office, the Department of State's office that divvies out funds, but the money has a limited shelf life, he said. When the money comes in, he wants a quick turn around on the contract and execution of the project.

In Turkey, the JOC (job order contract) process works well, said



Dipl. Ing. George Hlosek, attaché at the embassy (left) and Cuneyt Findikoglu, Europe District, discuss plans for the motor pool on the embassy grounds.

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Maj. Tom Asbery, TUSEG resident engineer.

“We use EMTA (Construction) with our JOC. Most of these guys have already been cleared by the embassy, so it is also advantageous to continue our partnership. They get the same area manager from EMTA when they come out here so it provides continuity in projects,” Asbery said.

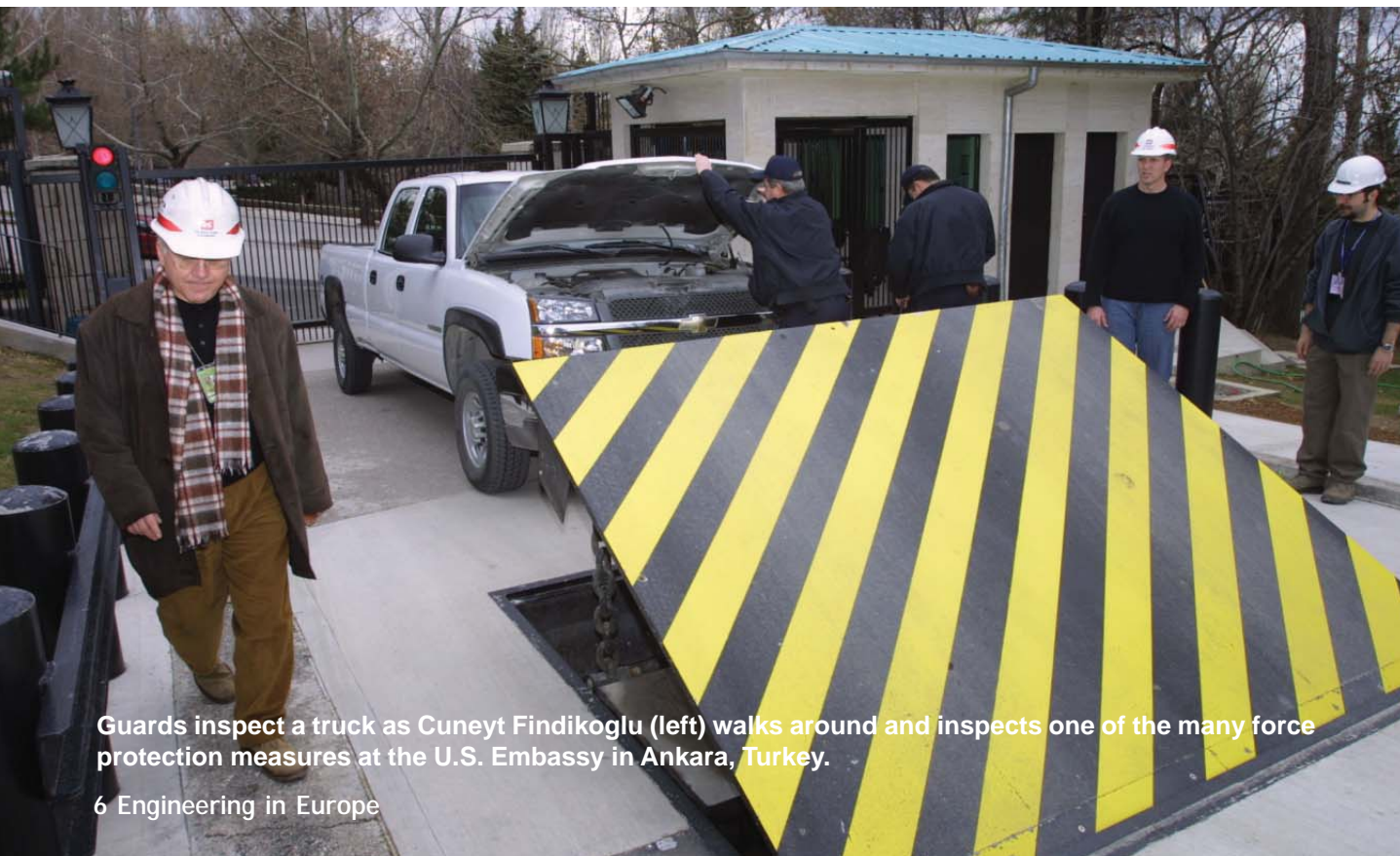
This approach helped provide a safer environment for the ambassador and his personnel in Ankara, as well as the Adana consulate. With the global war on terrorism and the ever-increasing threat of car bombs, it was important to get the construction done quickly and according to Corps’ standards.

“Physical security is not rocket science. You build a strong wall, it going to provide you protection. If you get standoff, that’s even better. But most places in Europe, and we’re one, don’t enjoy the luxury of the standard 100-foot standoff from all of our buildings. So, if you can build an anti-ram barrier and anti-climb wall, you’re so ahead of the game with that magic 100 feet,” said Stephen Smith, special agent in charge, Regional Security Office.

“The Corps and EMTA are really good at placing concrete and rebar and we got everything up and it’s a perfect project, a great visual deterrent. We know, based on the engineering, that it will stop a large vehicle carrying a heavy load,” Smith added.



ABOVE: Maj. Tom Asbery and Cuneyt Findikoglu, both of Europe District, inspect statement of work papers with Oytun Yanikoglu, site manager at the Office of Defense Cooperation, Ankara, Turkey.



Guards inspect a truck as Cuneyt Findikoglu (left) walks around and inspects one of the many force protection measures at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.



Aydin Calim (left), U.S. Embassy facilities office, Ankara, Turkey, points out the vast collection of bollards surrounding the embassy to Cuneyt Findikoglu of Europe District. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District has managed approximately \$2 million in construction in force protection measures and facility renovations for both the embassy and the consulate.

Bollards and anti-climb walls now surround the embassy. A one-kilometer-long anti-climb wall, reaching heights of 2.9 meters, surrounds the ambassador's residence and grounds. Eight hundred square meters of Mylar applied to residence and embassy windows protects the mission's personnel.

After a series of car bombings in Istanbul in November 2003, there was a need for a quick turn around on protective measures for the embassy said Smith. Here, the JOC tool was a way to make it happen.

"If we know we're getting a good product and we don't have to go through the hoops that you normally have to go through with federal contracting, that's a good thing. Concept to completion is much shorter than it would ever be if we had to go out and get three bids. And ... it is quality assurance and knowing that you don't have to teach the winning contractor how it should be done and how it has to be done," said Smith.

The TUSEG team on nearby Incirlik Air Base also helped the Adana consulate transition into another building outside of town. The former consulate was in an unsecured environment in downtown Adana and was demolished shortly after their move, said Telside "Teeta" Manson, vice consul.

The team helped construct a hardened perimeter fence with anti-climb walls and entry gates. They renovated office space, reinforced the building's structure to withstand seismic activity, and recently put in a drainage system for an orchard in the backyard which continually flooded.

"The Corps did the security work for us ... These things are extremely important to me and to the mission in general," she said.

Building to Corps' construction standards is important, especially with force protection requirements, and these standards are one reason the consulate staff is looking toward the Corps to continue their mission's work.

Although the consulate occupies about one quarter of the building, there is now more space to

(left to right) Capt. Tyler Faulk, TUSEG, Telside "Teeta" Manson, vice consul at the consulate in Adana, Turkey, Osman Terzi, civil engineer with EMTA, and Orkun Dincer, TUSEG, inspect a room at the Adana consulate to renovate. Europe District managed approximately \$1 million in force protection and seismic upgrades to the building to house the consulate. The consulate moved there several years ago from a building in downtown Adana. Here the group looks at adding a conference room and a kitchen for the consulate staff.



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accommodate the consulate staff of 33, but Manson said they need to take the expansion one step further. She is eyeing space upstairs for a much needed conference room and kitchen.

“We still have limited conference room space for regional town hall meetings via conference calls with Ankara and Istanbul ... We cram everybody in here up against the walls. It is a little crazy with this little speaker phone in the center of the table,” she said. “We had a kitchen in the old facility, plus the staff could step outside and have their choice of 30 different kebab restaurants right around the corner. Here, they don’t have that option. We are much more in need of a kitchen here.”

Manson and the TUSEG / EMTA team have looked at a space upstairs with existing plumbing and electrical systems to give the consulate the kitchen they need.

Although the Corps manages multimillion dollar projects, the smaller ones make a million dollar difference in morale to those in remote areas that rely on the expertise.

As far as Manson and Hlosek are concerned, the Corps has served them well and they will continue to engage the Corps as a tool to help them meet their needs.

“The OBO was very pleased with the way in which we did these projects. This is the way we should be doing business and take the load out of the embassies. They will propose this approach with other posts, as well, around the world. We are doing this in Ankara and they said, ‘Why aren’t we doing this in other places,’” Hlosek said.



TOP: Ibrahim Erden, quality control engineer with EMTA construction company, updates Capt. Tyler Faulk, TUSEG, on the progress of the large vehicle inspection site at Incirlik Air base, Turkey.
BOTTOM LEFT: Cuneyt Findikoglu, Europe District, inspects a bollard, which is one of the many force protection measures installed at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

CENTER, TOP: Contractors work on the fire-training facility mock-up area at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

CENTER, BOTTOM: The fire trainer was built to simulate a realistic air craft fire to provide training to fire fighters at Incirlik Air Base and host nation airport fire department personnel.